

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-10 AID-05 MC-02

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R 230830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SBASTATE WASHDC 6022

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMTM DHAHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS SANA 1999

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YE, UR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER ON YEMENI-SOVIET MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP

REF: SANA 1647, 1995

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF ARTICLE
APPEARING IN EGYPTIAN PAPER 'MADHBAR ALAYOM' JULY 19 BY CORR-
ESPONDANT MIRIAM RUBIN ON YEMEN CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI'S RECENT
CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF SOVIET UNION'S MILITARY ADVISORY
TEAM IN YAR, GENERAL BREKHOF (ARABIC TRASLITERATION; WE
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BELIEVE NAME IS IVAN KIRYAZHOV). CONVEGPATION ISRESULT OF
"BERKHOF'S" REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF GHASHMI'S JUNE

INTERVIEW IN "AKHBAR AL-YOM" WHICH INTAINED REMARKS CRITICAL OF SOVIET MILITARY AID TO YEMEN. (SEE SANA 1647) TEXT GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR BY GHASHMI ON JULY 21 (SEE SANA 1995).

2. BEGIN TEXT.

HEADLINE: BREKHOF SAID: I BELIEVE AKHBAR AL-YOM IS LYING AND THE YEMENI CHIEF OF STAFF REPLIED SAYING "WHAT AKHBAR AL-YOM HAS SAID IS TRUE 100 PERCENT".

LAST WEEK, GENERAL BREKHOF, THE CHIEF OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS IN SANA, WAS MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES REQUESTING AN URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH LTC AHMAD AL-GHASHMI, THE DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE YEMEN ARMED FORCES, TO DISCUSS WITH HIM AN IMPORTANT AND VERY URGENT MATTER. THE APPOINTMENT WAS FIXED. GENERAL BREKHOF, ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR OF HIS AIDES AND HIS PERSONAL INTERPRETER, ENTERED LTC GHASHMI'S OFFICE. THE SOVIET GENERAL OPENED A LARGE ENVELOPE AND TOOK OUT A COPY OF "AKHBAR AL-YOM" NEWSPAPER WHICH CARRIED A STATEMENT GIVEN BY LTC AL-GHASHMI ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF THE WORK OF SOVIET EXPERTS IN YEMEN. ("AKHBAR AL-YOM" HAD PUBLISHED THE ARTICLE IN ITS ARABIC OVERSEAS EDITION.) THE SOVIET GENERAL SAID: I HOPE YOUR STATEMENT HAS BEEN DISTORTED BY THE EGYPTIAN PAPER? AL-GHASHMI REPLIED BY SAYING: "ON THE CONTRARY, THE STATEMENT IS HUNDRED PERCENT CORRECT AND AFTER SOMEDAYS YOU WILL READ IN THE YEMENI PAPERS NEW DETAILS ON THIS MATTER. IT WAS A SURPRISE AND A SHOCK TO GENERAL BREKHOF, THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS. HE INQUIRED: HOW COULD YOU JUDGE THAT THE SOVIET WEAPONS WERE OLD AND COME FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR WHEN IN FACT THEY ARE WEAPONS FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR? LTC GHASHMI SAID: YOUR WEAPONS IN SANA ARE OBSOLETE AND THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE MILITARY MUSEUM. THE RUSSIAN EXPERT REPLIED WE HAVE DELIVERED A LOT OF WEAPONS TO YOU. LTC GHASHMI REPLIED: WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY WEAPONS FROM YOU OR A LONG TIME. THE CHIEF SOVIET EXPERT THEN SAID: WE HAVE EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION AND WE ARE AWAITING THE TIME OF THE VISIT DURING WHICH ALL THESE MATTERS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED. LTC GHASHMI SAID: I DO NOT

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KNOW IF CIRCUMSTANCES WILL OR WILL NOT PERMIT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION AT THIS TIME. THE CHIEF SOVIET EXPERT THEN INQUIRED OF THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED OF YEMEN'S INTENTION OF TERMINATING THE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS AND WHEN THIS TERMINATION WILL TAKE EFFECT? GHASHMI SAID: NEXT SEPTEMBER--AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE SPECIFIED ASSIGNMENTS OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS. I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD GET READY TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY. THE CHIEF SOVIET EXPERT SAID: WHO WILL BE THE ALTERNATIVE TO OUR PRESENCE? LTC GHASHMI REPLIED, STRENGTH COMES FROM GOD ALMIGHTY ALONE. BEFORE THE CHIEF

SOVIET EXPERT LEFT LTC AHMED AL-GHASHMI'S OFFICE HE ASKED
FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT DURING WHICH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN
SANA WILL BE PRESENT IN ORDER TO AGREE UPON THE STEPS TO
FOLLOW. END TEXT.
SCOTES

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